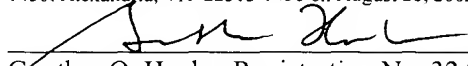


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Gunther O. Hanke, Registration No. 32,989

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Applicant | : | Harold Aberman, Timothy Simon and Douglas Jackson |
| Filed | : | Herewith |
| Serial No. | : | Unassigned |
| Divisional of Serial No. | : | 09/797,444 |
| Title | : | CARTILAGE REPAIR PLUG |
| Prior Group Art Unit | : | 3738 |
| Prior Examiner | : | Phan, Hieu |
| Docket No. | : | CHOND.65022 |
| Customer No. | : | 27629 |

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Applications
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination on the merits, please cancel without prejudice claims 1-16 and
amend claim 17 as follows:

17. (Amended) [The bridged plug device of claim 1] A bridged cartilage plug device for
insertion into a void in cartilaginous tissue in a living mammal, comprising a continuous upper
surface and a plurality of anchoring elements extending therefrom, wherein said upper surface is
mechanically joined to said anchoring elements.